

NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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\$1.4 MILLION FOR COCHECO, PISCATAQUA DREDGING PROGRAMS ON ITS WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE

\$1 million for Cocheco River, \$400,000 for Piscataqua dredging initiatives passes final Congressional hurdle

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the U.S. Senate earlier this week gave its final approval to the Fiscal Year 2004 Energy and Water Conference Report, which contains \$1.4 million in federal funding for dredging programs in New Hampshire. These initiatives include \$1 million for the Cocheco River dredging project; \$300,000 for the New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbors to perform an investigation of potential upland disposal sites of dredge material in the Piscataqua River; and \$100,000 to perform a study on proposed channel and turning basin widening for the Portsmouth Harbor channel. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Gregg was able to include the funding in the measure, which now heads to the White House for the President's signature.

Senator Gregg stated, "The Senate vote earlier this week ensures that these three important projects will have the resources to make a positive impact on the Seacoast Community. Dredging restores the depth of rivers to safe and navigable levels in an way that is sensitive to the surrounding environment, which is especially important given the sensitive ecosystem along the New Hampshire Seacoast. I am pleased the Congress included these funds in the final version of the Energy and Water bill and congratulate all those on the local level who worked to make these projects a reality."

The City of Dover is currently engaged in the final planning stages of the Cocheco project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Surveys indicate that about 65,000 cubic yards of material need to be dredged to return the 7- foot-deep, 60- to 75-foot-wide channel to authorized dimensions. The dredge material will be disposed of in an upland Dredge Material Disposal Facility to be constructed over an abandoned landfill on Dover City property.

When the Senate passed the Energy and Water bill earlier this fall Dover Mayor Alex Nossiff stated, "The City of Dover is pleased to learn that Senator Gregg has been successful in securing \$1 million in funding for the Cocheco River Dredge Project. This funding will help make the project a reality and is a critical step in the process to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin this important dredging project. The dredging of the Cocheco River is a vital component of the City's efforts to redevelop the downtown waterfront area. The City very much appreciates the hard work of Senator Gregg and his staff."

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Geno Marconi, Director of the Pease Development Authority Division of Ports and Harbors, stated earlier this fall, "Senator Gregg's work on these projects was not only timely but very much appreciated. The recent announcement of funding for the study of an upland disposal site for dredge spoils and funding for the study of the uppermost Piscataqua River turning basin is important news for the ocean commerce in

this region. Disposal of dredge spoils in an environmentally conscious manner is a top concern for all dredging projects. The proper disposal of spoils is a major concern in the lengthy permitting process. Ships engaged in ocean commerce are larger now than ever before. Keeping our port a viable tool in international commerce requires the ability to handle large ocean going vessels.”

For more information, contact the City of Dover’s Planning Department at (603) 516-6008.

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